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Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

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CONTENTS

HUMAN DISEASES

BANGLADESH

Briefs
Dohar Cholera Deaths 1

DENMARK

Nine Cases of AIDS Reported; Epidemic Feared
(INFORMATION, 13 Jul 83) 2

INDIA

Briefs
Dysentery Epidemic 4

ISRAEL

Briefs
New Cancer Diagnosis Method 5
Rabies in Golan Heights 5

MALAYSIA

'Tremendous Increase' in Gonorrhoea Cases Reported
(NEW STRAITS TIMES, 7 Jul 83) 6

Briefs
Cholera Infected Areas 7

NEW ZEALAND

Flu Claims First Victim (THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 1 Jul 83)	8
Flu Developments Reported (THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 7 Jul 83)	9
Mystery Disease Hits Otago (THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 9 Jul 83)	10

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Poliomyelitis Paralysis Surveyed (ZHONGHUA LIUXINGBINGXUE ZAZHI, No 3, 1983)	11
Infectious Disease Report Failures Surveyed (ZHONGHUA LIUXINGBINGXUE ZAZHI, No 3, 1983)	12
Long-Term Disease Surveillance Reported (ZHONGHUA LIUXINGBINGXUE ZAZHI, No 3, 1983)	13

PERU

Briefs	
Infant Mortality Figures	14
Leptospirosis Cases Triple	14

ROMANIA

Bee Glue Used in Treatment of Herpes (Cici Iordache-Adam; FLACARA, 24 Jun 83)	15
--	----

SPAIN

Possible Legionnaire's Disease Strikes Military Personnel (Fernando Reinlein; DIARIO 16, 19 Jul 83)	16
--	----

SRI LANKA

Dysentery Toll Reaches 151 (THE ISLAND, 1 Jul 83)	19
Forty Lives Claimed Daily by Diarrheal Disease (Minoli de Soysa; SUN, 19 Jul 83)	20

SWEDEN

Briefs	
'Q-Fever' Heart Disease Reported	22

ZAMBIA

Southern Province Leprosy Cases Increase
(SUNDAY TIMES, 17 Jul 83) 23

ZIMBABWE

School Infested With Bilharzia
(THE CHRONICLE, 29 Jun 83) 24

Tsetse Fly Threat; Continued Spraying Urged
(THE CHRONICLE, 1 Jul 83) 25

Briefs

Rabies Outbreak Reported 26

ANIMAL DISEASES

BANGLADESH

Briefs
Cattle Disease Outbreak 27

IVORY COAST

Cattle Disease Infests Savannah Region
(FRATERNITE MATIN, 22 Jun 83) 28

OMAN

Rinderpest Vaccination Program Under Way
(Shirley Jones; TIMES OF OMAN, 30 Jun 83) 31

TANZANIA

EEC Approves Emergency Rinderpest Control Grant
(Daniel Mshana; DAILY NEWS, 15 Jul 83) 32

ZIMBABWE

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Hits Cattle in Matabeleland
(THE HERALD, 20 Jul 83) 33

Briefs

Outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth 34

PLANT DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS

DENMARK

Colorado Beetle Spreads to New Areas
(Kenneth Bo Jorgensen; BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, 18 Jul 83) 35

Briefs

Fight Against Colorado Beetle Intensifies 37

PHILIPPINES

Army Worms Destroy Corn Crops
(Tony Pe. Rimando; BULLETIN TODAY, 22 Jul 83) 38

VANUATU

Rose Beetle Outbreak Reported
(SOLOMON STAR, 15 Jul 83) 39

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

DOHAR CHOLERA DEATHS--NABABGANJ (Dhaka), June 10 -- Cholera has broken out in an epidemic form at Padmachan area of upgraded Dohar thana. Two persons died out of 16 attacked by cholera since May 28. The persons who died of cholera are Abu Baqr and Shahaton Nessa. Cholera patients of the area not getting proper treatment for want of sufficient medical facilities, it is reported. It is further reported that there is acute shortage of saline water in the local hospital. When contacted, the local medical officer confirmed this and said that they were doing everything possible to check further spread of the disease. There is also scarcity of pure drinking water in the area. Many tubewell have been out of order here for long. [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Jun 83 p 2]

CSO: 5400/7131

DENMARK

NINE CASES OF AIDS REPORTED; EPIDEMIC FEARED

Copenhagen INFORMATION in Danish 13 Jul 83 p 1

[Excerpt] AIDS is not a "male homosexuals' disease"--the occurrence of the disease among male homosexuals may only be the beginning of "something much bigger," according to the medical director of a cancer research institute.

The head of the Cancer Research Institute in Arhus, Peter Ebbesen, fears that the presently limited number of reported cases of the deadly AIDS disease "is only the beginning of something much bigger." "If statistics continue their galloping trends--with cases doubling every 6 months--we may suddenly be faced with a regular epidemic," according to the Cancer Research Institute director.

AIDS--Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome--has to date been reported with certainty in only nine persons in Denmark, compared to 2,000 globally, i.e. 16 countries altogether. But, according to Peter Ebbesen, we have no idea how many Danes are presently carrying the disease, which has an incubation period of from 2 to 3 months to several years.

"Due to the long incubation period and the strict diagnostic requirements connected with AIDS, it is impossible to say how many persons in Denmark are walking around 'unknowingly' so to speak carrying the disease. On the other hand, we can establish that if statistics continue their galloping trend globally, what we are experiencing today is just the beginning of something much bigger.

"For the moment, the number of reported AIDS cases is doubling every 6 months and since there is no indication that the rising curve will flatten out, we could risk suddenly having to face an epidemic," said Ebbesen.

The Cancer Research Institute, which is supported by the Fight Against Cancer, has been chosen by the World Health Organization [WHO] to serve as the center and the coordinator for international cooperation on AIDS. Researchers from a long list of countries will attend an AIDS congress in Arhus this October.

Puzzling

"The reason we are taking AIDS cases very seriously is that no one can predict the development of the disease at this time. We know, can predict and control the spread of a measles epidemic, but AIDS remains a puzzling disease, whose modes of transmission remain relatively unknown. Actually, we have not yet succeeded in isolating and pointing to the micro-organism which presumably causes the disease so we have only indirect evidence that the disease is contagious at all," said Peter Ebbesen.

8952
CSO: 5400/2560

INDIA

BRIEFS

DYSENTERY EPIDEMIC--New Delhi, 19 July (AFP)--Over 200 people have died of dysentery which has hit parts of Jammu and Kashmir State during the past 6 weeks, an opposition member of the State Assembly said today. Mohammed Maaqbool Dar said that the people had died in over a dozen villages in Anantnag District. Contradicting government claims that only eight people had died, Mr Dar read out the names of the deceased in the State Assembly and forced the government to order an enquiry. Mr Dar said more were affected by the disease and feared that the final casualty toll would be much higher if the government failed to provide immediate medical relief. [Text] [BK241310 Hong Kong AFP in English 0504 GMT 19 Jul 83]

CSO: 5400/4735

BRIEFS

NEW CANCER DIAGNOSIS METHOD--A new, simple, and sensitive method for early detection of cancer in human beings has been developed by a team of researchers headed by Prof Uriel Bachrach of the Department of Molecular Biology in the Faculty of Medicine of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This was reported on Monday by the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The method is based on the accumulation of chemical substances called "indicators" that can be detected in the urine of cancer victims. The method is now undergoing clinical tests in collaboration with doctors from the 'En Kerem Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. After its reliability is proven, the researchers hope that it will be possible to conduct extensive tests among the population in order to detect cancer and then refer the examinees in whom the "indicators" of the disease have been discovered in order to validate the findings and locate the disease in their bodies. It was reported in the announcement of the Hebrew University that the "indicator" substance is a group of chemical materials known as polyamines which have been known for the last 15 years to be found in substantial quantities in cancer cells. Back in 1971 researchers at the National Institutes of Health in the United States discovered that virtually all the victims of the various kinds of cancer produced polyamines in the urine. As a result of this discovery a method was developed at that time to identify polyamines in urine, but the test instrument is very expensive, and only 10 tests could be conducted per day. Nevertheless, the researchers emphasize that this method will still not provide an unequivocal answer to cancer but instead will supplement the existing clinical methods. [Text] [Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 27 Jun 83 p 4] 5830

RABIES IN GOLAN HEIGHTS--Ten residents of the El 'Ad settlement in the southern part of the Golan Heights are receiving anti-rabies treatment for fear they were infected by the settlement's animals, who were infected by a rabid dog. The settlement's cow herd was put under quarantine. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that this is the second rabies incident this month in the Golan Heights. [Text] [TA020557 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Aug 83]

CSO: 5400/4526

'TREMENDOUS INCREASE' IN GONORRHOEA CASES REPORTED

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed.— The number of gonorrhoea cases in the country could have reached epidemic proportions, Deputy Health Minister Datuk K. Pathmanaban said here today.

The Ministry's figures showed a tremendous increase over the last three years and this could be only the tip of the iceberg.

The figures indicate that the number of cases had shot up from 2,795 in 1980 to 3,969 in 1981 and 5,188 last year.

The number of cases notified to the Ministry by private doctors was infinitely low, although notification of gonorrhoea, which falls under the venereal disease category, was required by law, added Datuk Pathmanaban.

The figures recorded for syphilis were 801 in 1980, 638 in 1981 and 668 last year. For chancroid (soft-sore) type of venereal disease the figures were even lower with 49 cases in 1980, 37 in 1982 and 40 in 1982.

The Deputy Minister said his Ministry might hold a meeting with the Malaysia Medical Association to plan a proper strategy of monitoring the disease.

'Immunity'

He said at the moment because of a lot of sensitivity concerning the disease, the Ministry was not notified of many cases.

Datuk Pathmanaban felt that it was in everyone's interest to ensure that the disease was tackled effectively.

He also felt that many members of the public were under the false impression that they could develop immunity to the disease by getting a "pre-operational" injection, or by consuming some drugs bought over the counter.

Datuk Pathmanaban said in most instances such measures never gave adequate protection.

Meanwhile, a Ministry spokesman said the disease had reached a "serious" stage.

He said it was important for the public to know that the disease must be treated properly.

The proper way of getting treated was to ensure that a smear and culture was taken to detect whether the strain was sensitive or resistant.

About 60 per cent of gonorrhoea cases were sensitive to penicillin said the spokesman.

He feared that there were people who went to one doctor and when they did not respond to his treatment, they go to another doctor and, without informing about previous treatments, seek a fresh cure.

Those who have contracted the disease should not shop around for treatment in this manner, he added. — Bernama.

CSO: 5400/4449

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

CHOLERA INFECTED AREAS--Kemaman District in Trengganu is to be declared a cholera-infected area following the confirmation of a victim, a 16-year-old girl from the district. The deputy director of the State Medical and Health Services says Kuala Trengganu and Marang have already been declared cholera-infected areas. A special ward will be set up at the Kemaman District hospital if the situation worsens. Meanwhile, in Kota Baharu, a 1 and 1/2-year-old girl was confirmed as having cholera, while seven others were identified as carriers of the disease. The state director of the medical and health services says so far 420 cases had been confirmed as having the disease.
[Summary] Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 23 Jul 83 BK]

CSO: 5400/4450

NEW ZEALAND

FLU CLAIMS FIRST VICTIM

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 1 Jul 83 p 2

[Text] Christchurch--An 18-year-old Canterbury University woman student has died--the first victim of the influenza epidemic that has spread to most parts of New Zealand.

The university registrar, Mr William Hansen, said the student, from Wanganui, was living at University Hall--one of the student halls of residence--with 300 other students.

Along with many others she went down with influenza, but complications developed and turned into pneumonia.

"The doctor was called and she was admitted to hospital," Mr Hansen said. "It was one of those dreadful, unfortunate circumstances."

The Health Department in Wellington has been advised of the death. Officials are also seeking information on another death in the South Island involving a young person, who may have been a flue victim.

Most health districts are reporting high levels of influenza and hospitals are reporting some patients with flue have been admitted.

Tests have confirmed that the virus is A/England influenza, a strain that has been present in New Zealand for a number of years but not to any great extent.

In Auckland, Health Department officials say the incidence of flue is not much worse than in other years.

The medical officer of health, Dr John Stephenson, said he had heard no reports of serious illness or death as a result of flue in Auckland.

However, hospital admissions and an increase in deaths from respiratory illnesses could be expected as a normal annual pattern.

Dr Stephenson said elderly people suffering from chronic chest infections, heart and kidney disease, and diabetes were most at risk because they were more susceptible to further complications.

FLU DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 7 Jul 83 p 20

[Text]

The virology laboratory at Auckland Hospital has isolated about a dozen cases of an English H3 influenza virus.

The head of the laboratory, Dr Margaret Croxson, says many more swabs are being sent to the laboratory this year than in the previous two years.

The laboratory has 100 swabs which have yet to be tested.

Dr Croxson says the H3 virus is affecting residents in the top half of the North Island, whereas people in the South Island and the bottom half of the North Island are being affected by the English H1 influenza virus.

But she adds that the viruses vary only subtly in strain type.

Worst Over

"Whether or not you have protection for these viruses depends on where you have met them before," Dr Croxson says.

"All influenza A viruses are potentially nasty. But I would not sort out any particular one."

"What makes them have more impact or not is whether they are new to a population. Both of these viruses have been around for the last few years."

Many Aucklanders have been ill with influenza but doctors seem to agree that the worst is over.

The medical superintendent of Auckland Hospital, Dr Desmond Beckett, says the hospital has not been as busy with influenza victims lately as it has been in previous years.

Referring to reports from the Health Department that an epidemic has hit the country and that three people have died from possible complications, Dr Beckett says: "Whatever is happening in the rest of the country, it has not reached here yet."

In Auckland the Health Department had collated its influenza figures for last month.

It reports a moderate amount of influenza and influenza-like illness but "no greater than we expect for this time of year."

The good news from one doctor is that there are fewer cases of influenza than a couple of weeks ago, although he says that some people are still suffering from severe influenza.

But the bad news is that some varieties of the illness are "undulating" — (tending to recur).

CSO: 5400/4448

MYSTERY DISEASE HITS OTAGO

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 9 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

Dunedin

A disease affecting hundreds of West Otago residents, including many children, is defying analysis, though one doctor believes an infectious agent is involved.

The symptoms are similar to those for glandular fever, but there have been no positive blood tests.

Those afflicted complain of fatigue, irritability and an inability to perform normal tasks.

In January, doctors following progress of the mystery disease decided it was an epidemic, and began intensive study.

A general practice registrar, Dr Marion Poore, spoke on her study of the disease at a meeting yesterday at the University of Otago Medical School.

She said she was working with a West Otago general practitioner, Dr P. Snow, when there was an upsurge in the number of patients suffering from the disease.

By January, they were seeing between five and 10 new cases each week.

Housewife patients complained they were so tired they could no run their households properly, and shearers found they could

not shear anything like their normal number of sheep.

Some sufferers could do their work for a day, and then felt exhausted for the next few days.

They had abdominal pains and diarrhoea, a sore throat, severe headaches and chronic fatigue.

The acute stage of the illness lasted about a week, followed by a chronic stage lasting up to six months.

Dr Poore and Dr Snow included 26 patients in their study and matched them with controls. Then they carried out blood tests and viral studies on everyone.

Thirty-eight per cent of the group were children under 15 years. Only three cases were people over 50 years.

The number of cases increased in September and October and again in December and January.

Dr Poore said 50 per cent of the patients had enlarged livers and were tender over that area. However, tests proved inconclusive.

Dr Snow said he believed the illness was probably caused by an infectious agent. He had sent blood samples overseas for analysis.

CSO: 5400/4448

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

POLIOMYELITIS PARALYSIS SURVEYED

Beijing ZHONGHUA LIUXINGBINGXUE ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY]
in Chinese No 3, 1983 pp 140-145

[Article by the National Disease Surveillance Coordination Group: "A Survey
of Sequelae of Paralysis by Poliomyelitis"]

[Summary] A survey of permanent paralysis due to poliomyelitis was conducted in 34 urban and rural areas with a total population of 3.5 million of persons of up to 30 years of age in 12 provinces and municipalities in 1981; 2,154 cases were found with a prevalence rate of 1.45 per 1,000 in cities, and 2,089 cases with a rate of 1.02 per 1,000 in the rural areas. Community mass administrations of live poliovirus vaccine were started in 1960-66 in the urban areas and 1964-72 in the rural areas; since then the number of permanent paralysis polio cases has been markedly reduced, especially in the cities during the last 10 years. Based upon the prevalence rates of permanent paralysis due to polio observed in 1976-80, it is estimated that the lowest mean annual incidence rates of paralytic poliomyelitis for the urban and rural areas under study for the 5 years are 0.22 and 1.05 per 100,000 population respectively. It is likely that these rates can be further reduced provided that the vaccination coverage rate and technical handling of the live vaccine can be improved.

9717
CSO: 5400/4154

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

INFECTIOUS DISEASE REPORT FAILURES SURVEYED

Beijing ZHONGHUA LIUXINGBINGXUE ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY]
in Chinese No 3, 1983 pp 169-171

[Article by the Disease Surveillance Group of Gulo District, Nanjing,
Jiangsu Province; et al.: "A Survey of Failures to Report Acute Infectious
Diseases in Gulo District, Nanjing City in 1981"]

[Summary] A survey on the unreported rate of notifiable communicable diseases (NCD) was carried out at random in 20 medical units and 6 residential areas in Gulo District in Nanjing City in 1981. During the survey 1,057 cases of NCD were discovered, 539 (50.99 percent) of which had not been reported to the District Health Station. The unreported rates of dysentery, malaria and viral hepatitis were high, being 70.78 percent, 50.00 percent and 42.79 percent respectively.

9717
CSO: 5400/4154

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

LONG-TERM DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORTED

Beijing ZHONGHUA LIUXINGBINGXUE ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY]
in Chinese No 3, 1983 pp 178-180

[Article by the Anti-epidemic Station of Liaoning Province; et al.: "A Preliminary Report on Long-term Disease Surveillance in Liaoning Province"]

[Summary] A disease surveillance program was conducted in three areas of Liaoning Province: Heping District of Shenyang City, Xinchenzi District and Jin County. Data of vital statistic, causes of death and infectious diseases were collected from those places in 1981. In the order of cause of death, circulatory disease occupied the first place and malignancy the second, the mortality rates being $172.6 - 242.7/100,000$ and $66.6 - 107.7/100,000$ respectively. The mortality rate of acute infectious diseases has dropped to $2.8 - 5.6 /100,000$. A computerized procedure for compilation life table was used. With the aid of this method, a life table could be accomplished in less than 1 minute. In Jin County, the life-span expectancy for females was 75.71 years and for males was 72.88 years. A sampling field survey on unreported rates of notifiable communicable diseases was carried out and the morbidity rates of these diseases were thus adjusted. The adjusted morbidity rates of dysentery, viral hepatitis and measles in the counties were higher in the rural areas than in the urban areas. A serological survey of measles, diphtheria, encephalitis type B and epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis revealed that there was a negative correlation between the morbidity rates and immune levels of the population.

9717
CSO: 5400/4154

PERU

BRIEFS

INFANT MORTALITY FIGURES--Minister of Health Franco Ponce yesterday admitted that in Piura and Tumbes an average of 16 minors die every day due to illness, and mainly because of poor communications in reaching the most remote regions of these departments. The Ministry of Health reported that it was able to lower the indices of infant mortality, which at certain times had been increasing dangerously but Minister Franco Ponce added that the almost total lack of communications in some places is what makes difficult the arrival of doctors and nurses to render the necessary assistance. Franco Ponce made these statements after announcing the beginning of the Basic Health Education Plan 1983-1985, aimed especially toward rural and marginally urban population of the country. This plan ought to have large-scale participation by the community, he said. This plan is aimed at raising the health level and well-being of the population in line with the political guidelines of the health sector, intended mainly to help people who lack the necessary knowledge of health care. [Text] [Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Jul 83 p 1] 11635

LEPTOSPIROSIS CASES TRIPLE--High pollution and swimming in the Rimac River have caused the cases of leptospirosis to triple this year. The disease affects the liver and the kidneys. Soledad Valdivia Paz Soldan, winner of the Health Research Projects contest with the project "Immunologic Diagnosis of Leptospirosis, Using Saprofita Stock," indicated that until a short time ago no more than 12 cases a year were recorded. She explained that because of the mudslides which fell in the central mountains and which contaminated the river's waters, people living on the banks are those most apt to get the disease. With cases already diagnosed, it has been shown that most of them are from Chosica, Chaclacayo, Nana, and other villages in that area. The project which won the contest for Soledad Valdivia attempts to find an antigen which allows the disease to be diagnosed in any laboratory. To do this, she explained, she will take leptosperas extracts with which she will conduct immunologic tests. She will use an extract of saprofita stock taken from water in Moquegua Province which, since it is not pathogenic, has provided good results in laboratory tests. [Excerpts] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Jun 83 p A3] 9927

CSO: 5400/2095

BEE GLUE USED IN TREATMENT OF HERPES

Bucharest FLACARA in Romanian 24 Jun 83 p 7

[Article by Cici Iordache-Adam: "Propolis Against Herpes"]

[Excerpts] Propolis, that defense arsenal which bees secrete both against their enemies and against their own diseases is currently one of the most enticing areas of research. It is being studied by teams of specialists both in the field of apiculture--in order to learn about its chemical composition and structure, which have not yet been fully explained anywhere in the world--as well as in the field of biochemistry, pharmacology, and medicine, for the purpose of transferring its virtues to the service of the health of man. It was discovered recently, for example, that it can be a powerful anesthetic, even more powerful than any of the chemical synthesis drugs known and used today in surgery, without the secondary effects which these drugs usually have. Another sector for research and experimentation is its use in virology and dermatology. Doctor biologist and biochemist Iuliana Crisan from the "Stefan Nicolau" Institute of Virology in Bucharest is coordinating a multi-discipline collective of researchers--virologists, dermatologists (from the clinic in the "Colentina" Hospital), with the direct assistance of pharmacist Cioca Vasilica from the apiculture combine which, for two centuries, has been specializing in the study of apiculture products and their utilization in medicine, cosmetics, and the feeding of sick or healthy people. The collective is studying the application of propolis in a number of dermatoses, which, in general, do not respond to the conventional allopathic treatments.

Thus, in the "Colentina" clinic, they have perfected and tested, with good results, a watery extract and an ointment of propolis for the treatment of cutaneous genital herpes and herpes zoster. So far the treatment has been used in 60 repeat cases of herpes types 1 and 2 and in 19 cases of herpes zoster. Compared to the control group of patients treated by conventional methods, the propolis proved to be superior and more effective in more than 85 percent of the cases of herpes and in more than 95 percent of the cases of herpes zoster. The treatment period was reduced by several days and, what is more important, there were significantly fewer sores and the length of the illness was reduced, without any undesirable reaction, which the therapy used up to now could cause. It was tried, in the form of solutions and creams, in other dermatoses but no conclusions can be formulated yet since the experiments are just beginning.

SPAIN

POSSIBLE LEGIONAIRE'S DISEASE STRIKES MILITARY PERSONNEL

Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 19 Jul 83 pp 1, 7

[Article by Fernando Reinlein]

[Text] Repercussions of the so-called "Legionaire's Disease" are causing concern among top military officials. No reliable data yet exist proving that a single agent is involved and it is feared that pressure brought to bear by some groups may lead to the closure of the best training field the army has for its operations, some of which are conducted jointly with other foreign armed forces. One fact stressed by military sources is that no cadet at the academy, whose students spend the entire year at the field, has yet fallen victim to the disease.

The existence of a mysterious disease that has struck Spanish military personnel -- five deaths have already been reported and there are other cases -- has caused great concern among both civilian and military health officials.

Research on the disease was cloaked in absolute secrecy until, following reports in the press, official spokesmen confirmed its existence.

The research, labeled "secret" and "confidential," has now been turned over to civilian health authorities, who have now assumed responsibility for the investigation.

Acting on behalf of military officials, a team of experts has gone to Zaragoza, where the first cases were reported, in order to investigate the "Legionaire's Disease."

Spraying

Although any relationship between the disease and the San Gregorio field of maneuvers was initially ruled out, some health officials wonder about the advisability of spraying the field. Part of the field had been used in previous years by the 16th American Air Force for a firing range. Unidentified black spiders have now appeared.

Another site under investigation is the Los Castillejos military residence, located in the Torrero section of the city of Ebro. The residence housed some of the military officers who later came down with the disease.

Autopsy

An autopsy performed on one of the victims (with permission of the family) resulted in specimens which were sent to the Infectious Disease Center in Atlanta (United States) for analysis. The specimens are apparently from the autopsy performed on Civil Guard Col Ramon Rodriguez Medel.

The Captain Generalcy in Zaragoza has officially confirmed the existence of the investigation after "the detection of a number of cases of respiratory infections, some of them serious, exceeding what would be considered normal for this period of time."

The official bulletin states that the assistance of the National Center of Virology in Majadahonda has been requested.

Unofficial sources in Madrid say that at least ten officers may have fallen ill. In addition to General Cruz Requejo and Civil Guard Col Rodriguez Medel, both of whom apparently died from the disease, the other victims are said to be Colonel Moreno, from the Airtransport Brigade of Alcala de Henares; Lieutenant Colonel (cavalry) Sanchez Valdespino, both hospitalized at the Air Force Hospital in Madrid, and Colonel Inza, now in the reserve and living in Zaragoza.

Concern

The great repercussions which the disease originating in Zaragoza has had have led to grave concern on the part of high military officials, DIARIO 16 has learned from military sources.

Investigations of the deaths were carried out in total secrecy in order to have all information before making a diagnosis and in order to prevent unfounded alarm, as DIARIO 16 reported in its Sunday edition.

However, the reaction caused and the earliest data obtained resulted in the sending of a team of military health experts to Zaragoza, experts probably connected with the Ramon y Cajal Preventive Medicine Institute.

The earliest reports came from two channels: technical and command, from the Academy of Zaragoza and the Captain Generalcy of the 5th Region. The cooperation of the National Center of Virology in Majadahonda (Madrid) was then requested.

Civilian health officials have also intervened: "One has to realize that military health officials can do very little in peacetime," military sources told DIARIO 16, and specimens from the autopsy done on Lt Col Rodriguez Mendez, one of those who died after a stay in Zaragoza, were sent.

"However, one must not forget that the Majadahonda center sends specimens to Atlanta every week," medical sources told this newspaper, "meaning that it is not such a spectacular event as one might think."

Spiders

However, one spectacular piece of information -- the very dangerous black spiders that have appeared in San Gregorio -- has added a mysterious element to the case. The spiders may have arrived in ammunitions or weapons crates and it is possible that they may have been the agent.

However, information exists showing that the "San Gregorio syndrome" term is not precise. The victims to date: one general and four colonels, are men over the age of 55 and "not a single case has occurred among the cadets of the General Military Academy, who spend most of their time doing maneuvers at the field."

Military sources told this newspaper that "it does not seem logical to speak of a 'San Gregorio syndrome' based on the current data. If it were so, it might be necessary to close the field, one of the best in Europe, which would have very negative consequences."

This would actually mean halting the entire plan of maneuvers of the Operations Division, most of which uses the San Gregorio field. This extreme will probably be taken advantage of by pacifist groups which exert pressure on the military presence in Zaragoza from specific sectors.

Military sources have not revealed the exact number of victims -- combining deaths and other cases -- because it is not yet certain that a common agent is involved. Nor will this be known until the results of the Atlanta investigation have been learned.

The steps taken in the investigation: Majadahonda Center, Atlanta, and so on, are similar to those followed with the toxic syndrome caused by the colza oil, although military sources have said that the current disease is unrelated to the colza oil.

"Military health officials wanted to keep the investigations confidential until a concrete answer had been received from Atlanta," DIARIO 16 was told, "but the news media revealed their existence."

This ill-kept secret in the military family also led to speculation. In addition to the possibility of the so-called "Legionnaire's Disease," it has been stated that the disease could come from the unknown black spiders found at San Gregorio and that could have arrived there in ammunition crates.

11,464
CSO: 5400/2563

DYSENTERY TOLL REACHES 151

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 1 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

There have been 151 deaths out of 3,367 recorded cases of dysentery during the past few weeks. This represents a death rate of 4.5 per cent of all cases admitted to hospital.

This excludes the Fever Hospital at Angoda where 50-75 cases of dysentery are admitted daily.

The present epidemic, according to a press release issued by the Health Department started in the estate areas in Nuwara Eliya and Nawalapitiya around March. Up to now around 1000 cases with 73 deaths have been reported from Nuwara Eliya and about 600 cases with 32 deaths from Nawalapitiya.

The press release adds:-

Outbreaks of dysentery have also occurred in Panadura (144 cases and 4 deaths) and Horana (238 cases with 2 deaths).

In Kilinochchi, 236 cases with

10 deaths occurred in an outbreak in May due to constant traffic of workers between this area and the plantation sector.

For the last one month cases have been occurring in and around Colombo particularly in the Northern part of the Colombo M.C. area and the adjacent MOH areas of Kolonnawa and Ja-Ela. Around 50-75 cases of dysentery are being admitted to Fever Hospital, Angoda, daily of which about half are from the Colombo M.C. area.

For the last four weeks there have been 1,149 admissions to Lady Ridgeway Hospital with 30 deaths.

Localised out-breaks of dysentery have also been reported from the Bingiriya, Anuradhapura and Chilaw MOH areas.

The present epidemic of bacillary dysentery is due to the bacillus shigella dysentriae I (Shiga's bacillus). Of the four species of shigella, Shiga's bacillus is the most virulent type causing diarrhoea associated with major complications and a high case

fatality rate which may be as much as 20%. This organism was first introduced to Sri Lanka in 1976 and initially spread throughout the Jaffna peninsula causing a large number of deaths before spreading to other parts of the Island in 1977 and 1978.

Infection is by the faeco oral route and the most common mode of spread is by person to person transmission owing to the low infective dose. Shigella dysentery is endemic in this country and due to the prevailing drought it has assumed epidemic proportions mainly due to poor personal hygiene as a result of insufficient water.

Diarrhoeal diseases which include dysentery can be controlled only by improving environmental sanitation and personal hygiene.

Even in developed countries outbreaks of dysentery due to some species of Shigella are not infrequent.

In Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Health has launched a diarrhoeal diseases control programme with the assistance of the WHO and UNICEF.

CSO: 5400/4733

FORTY LIVES CLAIMED DAILY BY DIARRHEAL DISEASE

Colombo SUN in English 19 Jul 83 p 7

[Article by Minoli de Soysa]

[Text]

Sri Lanka's number three killer, diarrhoeal diseases, claim forty lives each day. Almost half of them are children under five years.

Although there are around 200,000 cases reported each year, this figure hides numerous other cases which are not treated in hospitals. The cases come to light only in the death certificates.

Diarrhoeal diseases include dysentery, cholera, typhoid and gastro enteritis, the most serious and common being cholera and dysentery.

CHOLERA

In 1973, cholera was reintroduced into the country after twenty years absence, and last year there were three hundred reported cases and 21 deaths.

The present dysentery virus is the most virulent, and this year's epidemic killed over 150 people, mainly in the estate sector where health conditions are particularly unsatisfactory. In urban areas, many cases have been reported from the Colombo north municipal area and adjacent MOH areas of Kolonnawa and Jaela. Localised outbreaks of dysentery have also been reported from the Bingiriya, Anuradhapura and Chilaw MOH areas.

Diarrhoeal diseases are now endemic in the country and certain conditions can trigger off an epidemic. Children and old people are the most vulnerable. In fact, 48.5 per cent of the cases reported are children under five.

FACTS

A little known fact is that organisms carrying diarrhoeal diseases have to be swallowed in order to be harmful. The organisms are carried in the faeces. As few as ten are enough to cause dysentery while cholera requires about one hundred million. The latter is relatively easy to cure with antibiotics, but dysentery is more dangerous because so many people are ignorant of how easily it is spread and how to prevent it.

Unhealthy sanitary conditions and overcrowding lead to the rapid spread of such diseases. In urban slums there are no flush or water seal toilets. Faecal matter is disposed of carelessly, contaminating food and water. In rural areas and along Colombo's canal ways, people use the same water for disposing their waste and for washing in.

Studies have shown the presence of cholera vibrio and Coliform and E-Coli organisms in the Kelani ganga just below and above the sewage disposal point. And it is from Colombo north that most of the cases of dysentery are reported. The slums of the city are also concentrated here, and overcrowding and bad sanitation are a way of life.

ROUTE

The infection cycle by faecal oral route has to be broken. The most common mode is person to person transmission.

If people, especially food handlers, neglect to wash their hands thoroughly after going to the toilet, the organisms are transmitted through food and crockery. During drought conditions the situation worsens when people do not have enough water with which to wash.

Actual death is caused for several reasons. Prince Talal, special UNICEF envoy who visited Sri Lanka last week pointed out that 25 per cent of the 18 million children who died of diarrhoeal diseases last year could have been saved if a plan dealing with growth care, oral therapy, breast feeding and immunisation devised by UNICEF could have been implemented.

Children who catch dysentery are often already weak with malnutrition. Then it is difficult to fight off the disease. In most instances, there is dehydration and mothers, in their ignorance, stop feeding the child. Death is the result. Mild diarrhoea is not treated until it becomes severe and then it is often too late.

BREAST FEEDING

The trend away from breast feeding has also contributed to an increase in diarrhoeal diseases. Mothers use unboiled water or contaminated implements to mix the powdered milk and infect the child.

The poorer section of Sri Lanka will not have access to clean water, flush toilets or adequate food in the near future. In such circumstances, the best way to try and improve the situation would be through education about personal hygiene, as well as curative measures.

In last week's message for health week, Health Minister Ranjith Atapattu stressed that there were moves towards a positive, people-centred community-based action programme where people will have a greater role and responsibility towards their own health.

The severity of the problem of diarrhoeal diseases has led the Health Ministry to launch a concerted drive to reduce the number of deaths. This UNICEF and WHO sponsored programme was started in Gampaha. The Colombo district, next on the list, will be tackled this week, followed by Kandy and the estate areas. Under this programme, UNICEF has provided oral rehydration salts designed to counter the effects of dehydration. By 1985 the Ministry hopes to cover the whole country and also to set up a plant to produce its own rehydration salts.

To teach people personal hygiene the Ministry has published pamphlets and has launched an intensive media campaign.

PRIORITIES

But it remains a sad fact that, while so many of our children are dying each day, the government is not channelling more funds towards combating diarrhoeal diseases in every way possible. Perhaps a re-examination of priorities in the health sector will be most timely when millions of foreign and local money is being pumped into vast teaching hospitals, intensive care and neurological wings.

CSO: 5400/4734

SWEDEN

BRIEFS

'Q-FEVER' HEART DISEASE REPORTED--(TT)--A serious new disease has been discovered in Sweden and Scandinavia for the first time. It is Q fever, and it is caught from sheep, goats, and cows. Associate Prof Claes-Otto Kindmark of Uppsala suspects that Q fever has existed in Sweden for a long time and is insisting that the disease be investigated. Five percent of the people who contract the disease may develop organic heart disease. Kindmark, who is chief physician at the Academic Hospital in Uppsala, discovered the disease in a man in Uppsala. Since the victim has never been outside Sweden, he must have contracted the disease here. Kindmark told the TT: "The man recovered 10 days after getting the right kind of antibiotics. He will not develop any complications as a result of Q fever. Q fever can easily be confused with pneumonia, which is treated with the same kind of antibiotics as Q fever. So it is possible that we have already been treating the disease without knowing it." Kindmark also said: "But it is urgent that it be investigated. Of those who contract Q fever, 95 percent have no sequelae, but the remaining 5 percent develop serious diseases, among them valvular disorders of the heart." [Text] [Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 14 Jul 83 p 10] 11798

CSO: 5400/2561

SOUTHERN PROVINCE LEPROSY CASES INCREASE IN 1983

Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES in English 17 Jul 83 p 7

[Text]

THERE is an increase of leprosy cases in Southern Province this year and the control programme is geared to fight the deadly disease in the area.

According to a paper on the leprosy control programme in the province presented to the recent primary health care seminar in Livingstone, Gwembe is leading with 673 cases.

Kalomo has 339 cases, Namwala 268, Monze 243, Mazabuka 194, Choma 134 and Livingstone 94, bringing the total to 1,945.

The cases include defaulters and new ones since 1982. Siavonga and Sinazungwe have recorded nothing.

The programme is aimed at concentrating on early detection and treatment of infectious cases, improve on curative and diagnostic services at hospitals and maintain relative immunity against leprosy through a comprehensive programme of BCG vaccinations.

The paper said the programme would also reduce the number of defaulters to lessen relapses.

It would provide protective footwear to those with insensitive feet to avoid more damage to them.

The programme was in addition aimed at promoting health education to the public with a view to changing social attitudes towards this disease.

CSO: 3400/1674

SCHOOL INFESTED WITH BILHARZIA

Bulawayo THE CHRONICLE in English 29 Jun 83 p 3

[Text]

A SURVEY done among 8305 schoolchildren throughout Zimbabwe by the Blair Research Laboratories last year indicated that, on the average 22 percent of the schoolchildren in Matabeleland were suffering from bilharzia.

The survey, published in the laboratories annual report, was done on schoolchildren between the ages of eight and 10. They were classified in three different categories as children who predominantly came from commercial farming communities, rural farming communities or mines.

More boys had bilharzia which affected the urinary system and more girls had a type which affected the gut and liver, says the report.

With an average of 22 percent, Matabeleland had the lowest prevalence of bilharzia in the country, with Mashonaland and Masvingo averaging over 50 percent infection.

VACCINATION

Among 761 schoolchildren in the commercial farm communities in Matabeleland a total of 33.5 percent had bilharzia. Of the

boys in that group, 34 percent were infected and of the girls, 31.4 percent.

In the rural farming communities, 17.6 percent of the 2 195 schoolchildren tested had bilharzia. Sixteen comma six percent of the girls were infected and 19.4 percent of the boys.

Meanwhile, in Harare, the anti-rabies vaccination campaign started last week has been doing "fantastically well" a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture (Veterinary Services Department) said yesterday.

"We have vaccinated about three times as many dogs than last year. I have just come from Waterfalls where they have already vaccinated 270 dogs and they are still busy. Only 105 animals were brought to Waterfalls last year."

He said that residents of Belvedere had requested facilities for their area.

CSO: 5400/312

TSETSE FLY THREAT; CONTINUED SPRAYING URGED

Bulawayo THE CHRONICLE in English 1 Jul 83 p 3

[Text] THE TSETSE fly in Africa is threatening the existence of man with-in 11 600 000 sq km, an area larger than the United States of America, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Cde Swithun Mombeshora, said in Harare yesterday.

Presenting certificates to candidates from 10 African countries who completed a 15-week course on tsetse fly control in Zimbabwe, he said: "The tsetse fly pays no heed to international boundaries and thus good regional co-operation is vitally important if this pest is to be controlled."

Zimbabwe could claim to be a world leader in the campaign against the tsetse fly as could be seen from achievements in research and in the field.

CONFINED

"If it were not for our continued struggle, three fifths of our country would be affected by the tsetse fly.

"At the present time, it is confined to the northern boundary area and it is hoped that one day the problem will be eliminated."

The areas in Zimbabwe that were affected created a real problem because communal farmers in these areas could not use draught animals to till the land. They had to use their hands which was very

strenuous and limited or a tractor which was difficult to obtain.

"Some of these areas have a big agricultural potential but because of this handicap, actual production is very low."

This year, he said, 10 500 sq km were sprayed in combined air and ground spraying operations.

With well planned and co-ordinated spraying operations, the country was reclaiming about 5 000 sq km annually from the ravages of the tsetse fly.

"If we are to win the war against the tsetse fly, we must all join in and share strategies for a united effort.

"Work is continuing for a vaccine, but until that time we must attack the fly on all fronts to release land from which we can provide more food for our people," Cde Mombeshora said.

The course was attended by participants from Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, Somalia and Zimbabwe.

CSO: 5400/312

ZIMBABWE

BRIEFS

RABIES OUTBREAK REPORTED--Mutare--At least one boy has died of suspected rabies and 20 others in the Bonda area north of here are being treated, according to a vet in the area. The boy died last Friday after being admitted to the Bonda Mission hospital the previous day. He had been savaged by a rabid dog. Three other people who ate infected chickens were also being treated. Several people in the Honde Valley were being treated for rabies where dogs attacked passers-by. Last week a dog which had run amok and infected other animals was destroyed. Nine of its animal victims were destroyed along with about 30 chickens. The vet said about 300 dogs in the area had been vaccinated against rabies with the full support of the people who were eager to control the outbreak. "Steps are being taken quickly. We are sitting on a time bomb," said the vet. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 16 Jul 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/313

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

CATTLE DISEASE OUTBREAK--BAGERHAT, June 10 -- Various kinds of cattle diseases have broken out in the different places of Bagerhat sub-division. Only a few days ago one head of cattle died of cattle Diphteria in the village Khardar within Bagerhat Municipal area. Another cattle head died of cattle diarrhoea recently in a village Bhatsala, half a mile off Bagerhat town. Besides foot and mouth disease has also broken out in an epidemic form almost all over the Sub-division. When contacted the sub-divisional Veterinary Surgeon of Bagerhat told the New Nation correspondent that foot and mouth disease of cattle was highly of virus. Cattle heads generaly do not die of this disease if proper treatment is taken in time. But if a cattle head is once attacked with this virus disease it takes long time to recover and the cattle is crippled. Mention be made here that every year catto disease breaks out in this sub-division taking a number of heads of cattle. But no satisfactory measures are taken to uproot the scourge forehand by any quarters. [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 13 Jun 83 p 2]

CSO: 5400/7132

IVORY COAST

CATTLE DISEASE INFESTS SAVANNAH REGION

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 22 Jun 83 p 12

[Text] Fulah herdsmen in massive numbers were forced south by the heavy drought which raged for several years in the Sahelian-Sudanese zones. Ivorian authorities estimated at the time that some 105,000 head of Fulah zebus migrated to the northern part of the country in 1975. This livestock had been exposed to several kinds of disease: contagious maladies (bovine pleuropneumonia, brucellosis, etc.). It was to be expected that as livestock herds increased so would the incidence of these diseases, particularly animal trypanosomiasis, because of the density of the tsetse fly population, which had a more abundant food supply.

Since 1978 a vast program to wipe out the tsetse fly has been undertaken by the Ministry of Animal Production, in cooperation with the FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization] and the GTZ, the German Economic Cooperation Office.

Until the last few years, the cattle raised in the northern part of the Ivory Coast were mostly resistant to trypanosomiasis--the Baoule breed predominantly seen in the center and east, and the Ndama breed in the west. The original zebus were essentially the transhumant herds, but they were gradually domesticated and often interbred with Baoule or Ndama stock, which are very susceptible to trypanosomiasis.

Savannah Region Completely and Severely Infected

Thus the mortality and morbidity rates due to trypanosomiasis increased. Even among breeds resistant to the disease, it causes reduced growth, lower fertility rates and higher mortality rates in calves. According to investigations carried out in 1976 by the Animal Pathology Laboratory of Korhogo and the SODEPRA [Company for the Development of Animal Production] support unit, the rate of infection for calves up to 18 months old in domesticated herds varied from 5 to 40 percent according to the breed. This would appear to make trypanosomiasis one of the dominant calf diseases in the region. It is particularly prevalent in imported breeds that were brought in for crossbreeding to improve the zootechnic performance of the local breeds, and thus constitutes a limiting factor in improvement of Ivorian livestock.

The goal of the program that was launched in 1978 is to isolate trypanosomiasis and the distribution of zones infected by the tsetse fly, the vectors of both animal and human trypanosomiasis. Surveys have determined that the savannah region is severely and completely infected by various varieties of the fly. For example, in the northern region, three large areas are contaminated: Odienné, Korhogo and Bouna, covering a total area of 150,000 square kilometers. "From the point of view of our program," said Dr Clair, an FAO expert and head of the project, "Ivory Coast is in a difficult situation because of the fact that there are no uncontaminated areas, except for a few small zones west of Bouaké and Bondoukou where the flies have not been detected."

The Ministry of Animal Production gave the campaign highest priority, focusing on the Marahoué ranch. This is one of the SODEPRA ranches where the ministry would like to intensify production by various means, including improvement of the breeding stock through crossbreeding with select high-yield breeds. The higher-yield livestock are also more susceptible to trypanosomiasis. So to improve production it is a question of combating the vectors. This is why aerial spraying of insecticides (Endosulfan) has been carried out.

While this method is effective, it has to be supplemented by insecticide barriers around the periphery of the sanitized zone, to prevent re-invasion. Other methods have also been used, including traps and screens impregnated with insecticide. These traps were installed over 13 kilometers and spaced at 100-meter intervals. At the end of 2 months, there had been a 100 percent decline in [fly] density. According to Dr Clair, this method is more effective, more economical and less harmful to the environment. Encouraged by these results, other traps have been placed over 75 kilometers at a distance of 300 meters. Six months later the density of flies had declined by 96.6 percent. This has led to larger operations in the Mbengue and Sirasso region in Korhogo department.

Dense Cattle Populations

In collaboration with SODEPRA, those two areas were chosen as focal points for the battle against the tsetse fly--because of the large number of livestock found there. Surveys were carried out before the operation began on four herds within each area, including 50 head under 2 years of age. More than 40 percent of the animals were infected, but after the operation, the percentage fell to 10 percent.

Total eradication is out of the question, said Dr Kupper, a German expert. All that can reasonably be expected is to reduce the incidence. Two experts, one from the FAO and the other from GTZ, are in charge of the project, and they are backed up by a young Ivorian veterinarian, Dr Douati. Auxiliary personnel include six PVA [expansion unknown] monitors and twelve collectors. Some 1,400 permanent traps have been installed on the Bandama in the M'Bengue region, and 1,200 screens on the Bou (Sirasso). In order to prevent re-invasion, barriers have been placed in the surrounding uplands. This is the case on the Badeni, a tributary of the Bandama where Dr Kupper and his colleagues are working. The barriers are created by intense spraying of a given surface area

in order to prevent the flies from crossing it. The traps and screens are placed on the riverbeds in 10 cm of water, since the flies are attracted to cool places. The screens are made of blue fabric with two holes and impregnated with deltamethrine. Once the insect lands on the trap or screen and touches the insecticide, he is unable to fly.

Between 1978 and 1983 the FAO has contributed Fr CFA 223 million to this project, while the GTZ contribution will reach Fr CFA 600 million by 1984. Germany has supplied experts, camping equipment, laboratory equipment and vehicles. Only one expert now remains. Ivory Coast is providing Fr CFA 400 million for operations.

"My Animals Are Getting Better"

El Hadj Abdul Sangara, a big livestock owner (close to 800 head of zebus) whom we met at his farm, said he was satisfied with the work that has been carried out by agents for the Animal Production Ministry. He had been forced out of the Seguela region by the tsetse fly: he estimates his losses at 160 head of beef. For the last year he has been raising his livestock in the Sassandra region on the banks of the Bou river, where screens have been placed. Since the operation began, he adds, "my animals have been getting better; the rate of infection is low." Blood tests on 31 cattle in the cattle pen produced very impressive results: 100 percent negative. The agents have a mobile laboratory. Mr Sangare said that starting this year he will expand into livestock-related agricultural operations, "since now I can be assured of getting technical services from the ministry," he says.

The struggle against trypanosomiasis ultimately means the eradication of its principal vector, the tsetse fly. That can only be done with the help of sizeable technical and financial backing, to make it possible to fight effectively. Also, the campaign should be carried out to the greatest degree possible in concert with neighboring states.

9516
CSO: 6400/305

RINDERPEST VACCINATION PROGRAM UNDER WAY

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 30 Jun 83 p 1

[Article by Shirley Jones]

[Text]

A big vaccination programme is underway in the Sultanate to save herds of cattle, sheep and goats from a killer disease.

Cattle plague is sweeping Asia and Africa and about six weeks ago there were outbreaks in the Sumail and Nizwa area of Oman.

Swift work by a team of veterinarians from the Ministry of Agriculture contained the disease - rinderpest - which has a 100 per cent mortality rate.

"Since then we have had no more cases," said Dr Elliott Potter Chief Veterinary Officer, "An embargo has been placed on all live cattle coming from countries known to be infected and there are now strict controls on the movement of live animals throughout the Sultanate," he added.

Dr Potter is spearheading the campaign to rule out all cattle diseases in the Sultanate with a large scale programme of injections.

"We are vaccinating 40,000 head of cattle and 400,000 head of sheep and goats - but that is only a third of

the country's cattle stocks and about 40 per cent of sheep. But we have to start somewhere," he said.

Dr Potter said that Oman had made great strides forward in animals medicine. "We now have 50 vets where five years ago there were only five. Our programme also involves protection against foot and mouth disease."

He explained that the latest outbreaks of rinderpest had come about because of the economic recession.

"Back in 1978 the African continent had a major vaccination programme called JP 15 and this led to a shrinkage in the incidence of such disease," he said.

"But the vaccination of new animals has not taken place and so the disease is now creeping up and up. It is only carried by live animals," he added.

Livestock travelling to Oman from unaffected countries, such as Australia, will be allowed to land, unless they have visited docks in affected areas, which now include India, Kuwait, the UAE, Pakistan, and the Lebanon.

Nizwa market was closed following the Oman outbreaks.

CSO: 5400/4525

TANZANIA

EEC APPROVES EMERGENCY RINDERPEST CONTROL GRANT

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 15 Jul 83 p 3

[Article by Daniel Mshana]

[Text]

THE European Economic Community (EEC) has approved a 5m/- grant for emergency rinderpest control in Tanzania, the Minister for Livestock Development, Ndugu Herman Kirigini, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Ndugu Kirigini said his Ministry had identified motor vehicles, medicine, vaccinations and tyres as essential for the emergency programme.

He said twelve vehicles which had been purchased for the purpose were currently being registered while 4.5 million doses of vaccines would be provided by EEC within a few week's time.

The minister expressed satisfaction over the efforts being undertaken to curb the disease in infected regions. He said many livestock keepers had cooperated well during the campaign.

He said since the outbreak of the disease in Kitete District, Arusha Region, between 1.5 and 1.6 million head of cattle had been vaccinated in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Morogoro and Dodoma regions.

The minister, however, said a three-year rinderpest control

programme would be carried out starting next September. He said the Government would provide nearly 70m/-.

He said the campaign, earlier scheduled for last month, had been delayed because medicines and other necessary facilities like transport, had not yet been obtained from international agencies assisting the programme.

Under the programme, he explained, between six and seven million head of cattle in the regions north of the central railway line would be vaccinated. The regions are Tabora, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Kigoma and Kagera as well as Mbeya and Rukwa regions.

Both the emergency and the three-year programme were negotiated last May in Brussels.

EEC agreed to provide Tanzania some five million shillings for the emergency measures while some 110m/- would be for control of the disease in Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) countries.

CSO: 5400/311

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE HITS CATTLE IN MATABELELAND

Harare THE HERALD in English 20 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] A ban has been placed on all movement of cattle in Matabeleland after foot-and-mouth disease was diagnosed in beasts at the Cold Storage Commission in Bulawayo yesterday.

The provincial veterinary officer, Dr Tony Taylor, said cattle intended for slaughter could be moved by direct road transport but only after a full farm inspection had been carried out.

The infected cattle found at the CSC were taken from the Willsgrove feed-lots and it was as yet unknown how the disease had crept in. All cattle were vaccinated with a vaccine containing the three strains of foot-and-mouth before going into the feedlots.

It was thought that "somewhere along the line" cattle which had not been vaccinated might have slipped into the lots, he said.

- Other possible causes of the outbreak could be cattle-to-cattle contact on the borders of the feed-lots, with cattle from outside coming into contact with animals in the feed-lots through the boundary fences.

It was also possible that wild pig had managed to get into the lots to infect the cattle, he said.

Dr Taylor said there would be an inspection of all cattle radiating out from the feedlots at Willsgrove and the ban on cattle movement would remain until this had been done — a period of about two weeks.

He emphasised that the infection diagnosed yesterday was recent because the animals had fresh lesions.

Cultures from the infected cattle had been sent to Harare for analysis and it should be known by today which strain of foot-and-mouth had hit the cattle.

Although several cattle sales in and around Bulawayo have been cancelled due to the outbreak, Dr Taylor said those cattle already in pens for slaughter could be sent direct to the abattoir if they could not be returned to the sellers.

CSO: 5400/313

ZIMBABWE

BRIEFS

OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH--BULAWAYO--A ban has been imposed on the movement of all cloven-hoofed livestock in Matabeleland following an outbreak of foot and mouth disease at the feedlots of the Cold Storage Commission in Bulawayo. A spokesman for the department of veterinary services said it had been considered wise to enforce a complete ban on the movement of all cloven-hoofed livestock in the province. [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 26 Jul 83 p 2]

CSO: 5400/312

DENMARK

COLORADO BEETLE SPREADS TO NEW AREAS

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 18 Jul 83 p 3

[Article by Kenneth Bo Jorgensen]

[Text] The Colorado beetle expanded its domain yesterday to include the Lolland-Falster area.

Farmer Borge Jorgensen, Nysted, discovered it yesterday morning when he went for a walk on his farm. In the vegetable garden he found that the carrot tops were completely red.

"I have never seen a Colorado beetle--I thought it was a ladybug," Jorgensen told BERLINGSKE.

But on closer inspection he could easily see it had to be Colorado beetle larvae because the red markings on their back were different from those of ladybugs.

Borge Jorgensen put the most severely infested tops in a plastic bag and poured boiling water over them. Following the advice of the Nykobing-Falster police, he sprayed the rest of the carrot bed with the insecticide parathion, which he had in the house anyway to use on turnip fields.

Today he will be visited by a representative from the State Plant Inspection Office, who will take a closer look at the situation. To our knowledge, the approximately 100 beetles found in Jorgensen's garden is the largest concentration of the dreaded beetle on Lolland-Falster.

But even if the beetle should ravage the area, it would be of no economic consequence because it does not bother turnips.

"Nobody in this area actually has a carrot crop, just enough for private use, but we want to get rid of it anyway or the situation will get out of control next year," said Borge Jorgensen.

Police in Southern Jutland continued to receive reports on new discoveries of the dreaded beetle and its larvae yesterday.

Three new discoveries were reported in Tonder, one of them involving a 7-1/2 hectare potato field, for example. Sonderborg, Haderslev and Abenra police have each had five to six reports. Most of these involved gardens infested with both beetles and larvae. However, it does not appear that they have expanded further northward in Jutland. Kolding police received a few reports yesterday, but these proved to be ladybugs. People making reports have been asked to mark the infested area, to destroy beetles and larvae with boiling water and to spray the area.

All police stations have received instructions how to recognize the Colorado beetle, including drawings and beetles and larvae in alcohol for comparative purposes.

Ladybug larva is most often mistaken for that of the Colorado beetle. They both have red markings on the back. But ladybugs have red spots along the spinal column, while the Colorado beetle's red markings form stripes along the edge of the chrysalis.

All the discoveries reported yesterday will be turned over to the State Plant Inspection Office today.

8952
CSO: 5400/2560

DENMARK

BRIEFS

FIGHT AGAINST COLORADO BEETLE INTENSIFIES--The Potato Export Commission, together with several farmers' organizations and the Nation Office for the Cultivation of Plants, has recommended that the struggle against the Colorado Beetle be intensified by expanding the special combat area, which was initiated in Sonderjylland a week ago. According to Section Leader Henning Andersen of the National Plant Inspection Office, a survey will be made Monday to see whether the combat area must be expanded to the north after the discovery of several Colorado Beetle larvae in the Grindsted district where a large part of the potato farming is concentrated. In the area south of the main road between Esbjerg and Kolding, the Plant Inspection Office has ordered spraying of all potato fields under cultivation. The costs will be covered by the government, which has provisionally set aside 300,000 kroner for this purpose. The branch of the Plant Inspection Office in Grindsted received report yesterday of about 30 Colorado Beetle attacks in the Grindsted district. "We think the spraying area will be expanded, and the necessary funds will be granted," Director Carl Johan Henriksen of the Potato Export Commission said. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Jul 83 p 9] 9124

CSO: 5400/2562

PHILIPPINES

ARMY WORMS DESTROY CORN CROPS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 22 Jul 83 pp 1, 13

[Article by Tony Pe. Rimando]

[Text] COTABATO CITY, July 21--More than 1,000 hectares of corn worth over ₱2 million were attacked and destroyed by armyworms in the past few days in South Cotabato, the Office of Media Affairs reported today.

Provincial agricultural officer Domingo S. Nicolas said the worm infestation severely affected the corn plants which were ready for harvests in the municipalities of Koronadal, Tupi, Tampakan, Malapatan, and Tangtangan.

Nicolas said the worm attack, which is considered the first of its kind in the corn-rich province, damaged corn fields which are mostly covered by the government's Maisagana program.

Nicolas said he had warned Ministry of Agriculture field technicians in other municipalities to be on the lookout for the armyworms and dispatched pest control officers to the affected towns.

The OMA report said that in several barangays, the farmers gathered as many as three to five kerosene cans of armyworms.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture said that the locust infestation in several Mindanao provinces have been contained.

Maguindanao provincial officer Abusama Alid said he ordered his men to institute pest control measures immediately in the affected towns.

CSO: 5400/4446

VANUATU

ROSE BEETLE OUTBREAK REPORTED

Honiara SOLOMON STAR in English 15 Jul 83 p 8

[Text] The Solomon Islands Government has been notified recently on an outbreak of a new exotic insect pest in the Republic of Vanuatu.

A release from the Quarantine Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Development in Honiara said that the pest was discovered close to Baverfield International Airport in Vila. The pest is called Rose Beetle (*Adoretus versutus*).

The Ministry said that the beetle has now spread outwards in the area and is causing considerable damages to a number of plants and species.

Rose Beetle is a medium sized, shiny brown insect approximately 1.5 centimetres (cm) in length and is recorded as a serious pest on cocoa, coffee, yams, hibiscus, cabbage, roses and a number of other ornamental plants.

Feeding damage on the foliage can ultimately result in death of the plants attacked by the beetle.

"As many of the pest's preferred host plants are of agricultural importance to Solomon Islands, the Agricultural importance to Solomon Islands, the Agriculture Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Development is ensuring that appropriate measures are being taken to prevent entry of the Rose Beetle into Solomon Islands" the Ministry said.

Agricultural Quarantine Officers are closely examining all aircraft, vessels and cargo arriving directly from Vanuatu to ensure that the pest is not introduced through our established tourist and trade links.

These measures should protect this country's enviable status of being free from many serious pests and diseases established overseas.

At present there are no Rose beetle in Solomon Islands.

CSO: 5400/4447

END